

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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SUBYUX TUNIS PRESS REPORTS WORK OF FOURTH PLENARY SESSION
OF TUNISIAN/LIBYAN JOINT COMMISSION IN TRIPOLI

REF: TUNIS 3663

1. FOURTH PLENARY SESSION OF TUNISIAN/LIBYAN JOINT COM-
MISSION OPENED IN TRIPOLIE MAY 13 UNDER CO-CHAIRMANSHIP
OF TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOUIRA AND PRESIDENT
OF LIBYAN GENERAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE AL-'ATI AL-'UBAYDI.
FOLLOWING IS BASED ON ACCOUNTS IN TUNIS NEWSPAPERS OF
MAY 14-16.

2. LIBYAN DELEGATION LEADER AL-'UBAYDI OPENED SESSION
PROCLAIMING USUAL LIBYAN LINE IN RESPECT TO BUSINESS
OF JOINT COMMISSION, SAYING PROJECTS AND AGREEMENTS
BETWEEN TUNISIA AND LIBYA QUOTE SHOULD NOT BE CONSI-
DERED TRADITIONAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT PEOPLE
BUT RATHER AS AGREEMENTS BETWEEN BROTHERS AND NEIGHBORS
WHO HAVE THE SAME OBJECTIVES AND THE SAME DREAMS UN-
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QUOTE. HE SAID WORK OF COMMISSION WOULD LEAD TO QUOTE
INTERPENETRATION AND CONJUNCTION OF INTERESTS UNQUOTE
FACILITATING QUOTE TASK OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IN ACHIE-
VING THE SUPREME OBJECTIVES WE HAVE SET UNQUOTE, THIS
BEING THE POLICY OF BOURGUIBA AND QADHAFI. AL-'UBAYDI
LISTED FIELDS OF EXISTING COOPERATION BETWEEN TUNISIA
AND LIBYA - LAND TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, COMPLEMEN-

TARITY OF INDUSTRIES - AND SAID THESE SHOULD LEAD TO CREATION OF JOINT ECONOMIC UNITS WHICH WOULD SERVE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

3. RESPONDING TO AL-'UBAYDI, NOUIRA CALLED FOR ACTION ON EXISTING PLEDGES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID TIME HAD COME TO CARRY OUT THOSE JOINT PROJECTS ALREADY AGREED TO, POINTING OUT THAT GOT DELEGATION WAS QUOTE IMPATIENT UNQUOTE TO MOVE

ON TO STAGE OF REALIZATION. NOUIRA DECLARED QUOTE IF WE ARE ABLE TO TAKE THE FIRST STEPS - SOLID STEPS - IN COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WE WILL HAVE CONSOLIDATED OUR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, REINFORCED THE BROTHERHOOD OF OUR TWO PEOPLES AND OPENED UP LARGE PERSPECTIVES FOR THEIR FUTURE UNQUOTE. THIS INDEED IS WHAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS ENVISAGED IN 1972, HE SAID.

4. WORK OF JOINT COMMISSION TERMINATED AFTERNOON OF MAY 15. IT WAS FOLLOWED BY CEREMONY OF SIGNATURE BY NOUIRA AND AL-'UBAYDI OF PROCES-BERBAL OF COMMISSION'S PROCEEDINGS. ALSO AT CEREMONY TUNISIAN PLANNING MINISTER MUSTAPHA ZAAOUNI AND HIS LIBYAN COUNTERPART MUSSA AHMAD ABU FURAYWAH SIGNED CONVENTION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ON NON-IMPOSITION OF DOUBLE TAXATION.

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5. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER PLENARY SESSION OF COMMISSION LISTED MAJOR POINTS OF PROCES-VERBAL, WHICH ARE: 1) REINFORCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; 2) INTENSIFICATION OF EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES ON SEA AND LAND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS; 3) CONTINUED EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AND COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; 4) INCREASED COMMERCIAL TRADE, IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF TUNISIA'S GUARANTEEING PRIORITY TO LIBYAN PRODUCTS AND VICE-VERSA; 5) INCREASED COOPERATION IN FIELD OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND LABOR; 6) SIMPLIFICATION FOR TUNISIANS AND LIBYANS OF FORMALITIES FOR TRAVELING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND FOR RESIDENCE IN EITHER OF THEM. THE JOINT COMMISSION ALSO SET UP QUOTE PRECISE UNQUOTE PROGRAM FOR MEETING OF WORKING GROUPS WHO WILL SUBMIT THEIR CONCLUSIONS TO NEXT PLENARY SESSION OF COMMISSION IN DECEMBER

THIS YEAR.

6. ON RETURN TO TUNIS NOUIRA DECLINED TO GIVE DE-

TAILED RESULTS OF COMMISSION'S WORK, SAYING THESE WOULD BE PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA.

7. OTHER MEMBERS OF TUNISIAN DELEGATION TO JOINT COMMISSION WERE FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMED FITOURI, PLANNING MINISTER MUSTAPHA ZAANOUNI WHO, WITH LIBYAN COUNTERPART MUSSA AHMAD ABU FURAYWAH PRESIDED AT SESSION OF COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUP, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF TUNISIAN CENTRAL BANK AND OF MINISTRIES OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

8. VISIT TO LIBYA ALSO PROVIDED NOUIRA POSSIBILITY TO DISCUSS WITH TUNISIAN DIPLOMATS AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL TUNISIANS THERE ACTIVITIES AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF
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TUNISIAN WORK FORCE IN LIBYA, NOW ESTIMATED AT 80,000.

9. TUNISIAN PAPERS MADE NO REFERENCE TO FACT THAT NOUIRA DID NOT SEE QADHAFI, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY UNDERSTOOD SUCH A MEETING HAD BEEN EXPECTED. TUNISIAN TV DID MENTION IN COURSE OF REPORTING ON VISIT, HOWEVER, THAT QADHAFI WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
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